IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

NIKUNEN et al Atty. Ref.: 30-575

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For: METHOD AND BURNER FOR ROTARY KILNS

December 21, 2004

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and in order to place the above identified application in better condition for examination, please amend as follows: